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JUN 12 1960

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Approved For Release 2005/01/05 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700090009-0 R + R DW

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ward that Rowe collected five turns

over the first MiG-15 jet.

The downing of Francis W. Rowe, the 1944 graduate of Columbia University and his spy plane over Soochow University, has steadfastly divided territory in early May and the reason that the \$100,000 reward had not been sounding collapse of the summit meeting to do with his defection. The conference that followed, however, added a new dimension to the 70-year-old mystery flights.

"I loved America and wanted to get away to join the free world," he said here last week, "but I'm now convinced that the planes the living room of the man who which so easily eluded him over story farm home where he lived in Manchurian skies in 1953 were with his 55-year-old mother, the forerunners of Powers' U-2 spy plane.

Rowe, who doesn't define democracy along strictly geographic lines, applauded the twin collapses of the Rhee regime in Korea and the Mustafa administration in Turkey and said both men "only paid the penalty for suppressing the freedom of people in their countries."

He maintains he planned to flee Communism long before entering the North Korean Air Force Academy in 1950. He also says he never shot down an American plane and brought along his flight log to prove it.

He did admit engaging in "mock" combat with U.S. planes on his nearly 65 combat missions but insists he never hit any.

#### Nearly Loses Life

On five occasions this kind of airborne "Russian roulette," nearly cost him his life. On one of the five times he was tailed by American fighters he said he could see bullets piercing the air over his cockpit.

U.S. agents, after his defection, never suspected him as a spy, he explained, "because the Communists have better methods of placing their agents than by being accompanied by a top-secret weapon."

Asked if it would not be a simple matter to fake the flight log he returned with him, Rowe replied that American intelligence agents are competent to judge whether documents had been altered.

#### Flew 60 Missions

His poor record of "kills" led to no doubts of his loyalty to Communism, among his superiors, he claimed, because "just surviving more than 60 combat missions was considered heroic."

He also denied vehemently, as he had previously, that he ever saw leaflets offering the \$100,000 reward ordered dropped over North Korea.

## Enjoys Baseball



BASEBALL IS ONE FACET of American life that's not new to Francis W. Rowe, former North Korean pilot now teaching engineering at the University of North Dakota. Rowe, who in 1953 flew with the Wanna King, his MiG-15 jet plane with him, says he never played baseball with him when he was a boy. He picks the Los Angeles Dodgers as his favorite team. (Herald Photo).

## Defected To West:

# UND Instructor Once Red Flier

By MIKE CARRIGAN  
Herald Staff Writer

Francis W. Rowe, once a secret agent of the North Korean Air Force, was a fighter pilot in the North Korean Air Force, was sent along with Commissar and Marshal Kim Jong Il and mysterious Dr. Kim Il Sung to the United States to teach engineering. He was sent to the University of North Dakota in the fall, during the Korean War. Since he came to the United States, he has been a private school teacher. He spent the summer before a local service club has avoided discussing his life behind the Curtain.

On one of 30 such missions he flew with MiG-15 jet fighters he was measured by the high altitude American planes. He was thrust into a secret that September 1953, a spy flying to the